

Pyongyang Korea, Oct. 16, 1902.

Dear Dr. Allen:-

The above account is made up from the statement of Mr. Hunt, Mr. Lee, Syen On Chun, Yi Hak Syon and Mr. Hunts "boy" the accounts agreeing in every essential particular.

While the man was in jail and no money and no had been received and no satisfaction in any way Mr. Lee telegraphed to me in Seoul and I laid the case before the Legation. The present situation is as given above.

To us it seems clear that our treaty rights have been denied us by the Governor, that he seized lumber belonging to us, the transaction having been completed, the lumber paid for and the lumber removed to another place pending removal after Sunday; that we laid the matter politely before the proper official the Kamni and not only received no satisfaction but were in fact told by the Governor's arrest and beating of our Agent that we could not buy lumber and that he had the right to compel the reversal of the transaction.

We should be glad to have you press this case until full satisfaction is secured, if in your judgment also our treaty rights have been clearly invaded. We ask this because of the principle involved and because to ignore this means constantly increasing trouble in the future and a contempt for the rights of foreigners on the part of officials, underlings and people. While the financial loss is a small one I think the most effective way to make an impression upon officials and especially the underlings is to insist upon their making good the loss occasioned by their unlawful proceeding. Mr. Hunt, Mr. Lee and I agree that 1000 nyang (a little over one 100 Yen) is a justly low estimate of the financial loss occasioned, considering Syen On Chun's loss in money and time and the breaking up of his business and his loss in interest on his money, and Mr. Hunt's loss

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Mr. Hunt's loss in money and delay in building.

However the money in itself is not a consideration but the moral effect of obtaining it is a great factor.

Aside from this anything you can do to impress the Governor here with the fact that he must observe the treaty rights of foreigners resident here- will be most grateful to us. I have taken pains to lay this clearly before you because I believe it is such a clear case of violation of rights that it is one which you can justly press with the government, and though it re-assert our rights which are certainly held in great contempt just now by the officials here, who openly boast that they will make it hard for the foreigners and that they will kill a number of the christians.

I enclose also a card bearing in Chinese Characters the name of the office (and the present incumbent of the same) of the official positions here.

I have written of this case as it appeals to us, but if for any reason you think it unwise to press it, you will understand of course, that we are not insistent upon our rights, but prefer to waive them as a matter of expediency. Mr. Noble is writing you also of their difficulties, different from ours, but showing very clearly the attitude of the officials towards foreigners.

Yours very Sincerely,

(Sig.) Samuel A. Moffatt.

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